

## DOWER: VERY SHORT CV

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JOHN W. DOWER is professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he joined the faculty of history in the early 1990s and retired in 2010. Earlier academic appointments include the University of Wisconsin at Madison (1971-1985) and University of California at San Diego (1986-1991). His major publications draw on Japanese and English-language resources to examine Japan's emergence as a modern state in a turbulent global milieu. He is particularly known for his writings on the Pacific War, as well as on the dynamics of starting over in a shattered land in the first decade that followed Japan's defeat; and also for his use of visual images as a vibrant resource for enhancing our historical understanding of Asia in the modern world.

Most of Professor Dower's books have been translated into Japanese, and some have been honored with prizes. *Empire and Aftermath: Yoshida Shigeru and the Japanese Experience, 1878-1954*, based on his doctoral research and published in 1979, addresses the transition from prewar and wartime Japan into the postwar period through the career of postwar Japan's preeminent conservative political leader. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (1986) is a comparative analysis of racism, propaganda, and indoctrination that won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Masayoshi Ōhira Memorial Prize, and was a finalist for the American (now National) Book Award. *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (1999) takes Professor Dower's engagement with popular and grass-roots developments as well as formal policy making in new directions, and received many awards. In the U.S., these included the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, Bancroft Prize, and Fairbank Prize; in Japan, the translation received the Yamagata Bantō Prize and the *Asahi* newspaper's Osaragi Jirō Rondan Special Prize. *Cultures of War: Pearl Harbor / Hiroshima / 9-11 / Iraq* (2010) was a finalist for the National Book Award in Nonfiction, as well as the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in History, and is presently being translated into Japanese. Twelve of Professor Dower's short pieces were published under the title *Japan in War and Peace: Selected Essays* (1994). A second collection of eleven historical essays, mostly written since then, is scheduled for publication in August 2012 under the title *Ways of Forgetting, Ways of Remembering: Japan in the Modern World*.

Professor Dower's explorations featuring visual resources include books on traditional design, atomic-bomb related art, and Japanese photography up to 1945, as well as a documentary film (*Hellfire—A Journey from Hiroshima*) that was nominated for an Academy Award in 1988. He is co-director of MIT's Asia-oriented "Visualizing Cultures" project—a pioneering image-driven historical website accessible at [visualizingcultures.mit.edu](http://visualizingcultures.mit.edu)—and sole author of eleven units in this project.